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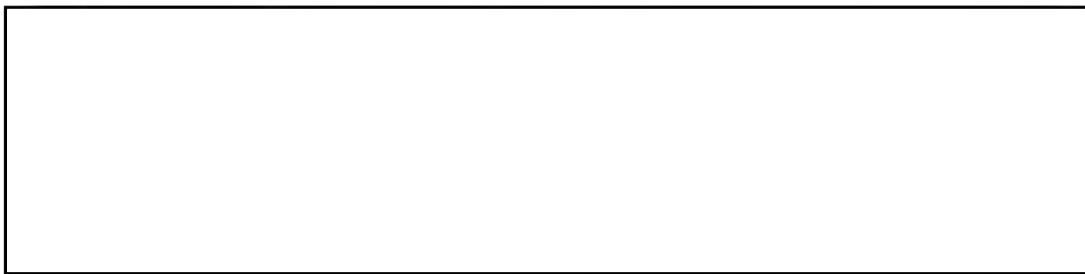
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[JORDAN: Arab cease-fire observers are taking up positions in Amman, but there is no sign that either side has begun to withdraw from the city.

An Arab peace force, dispatched to Jordan earlier by the Arab leaders meeting in Cairo, has begun setting up observation posts in Amman. About 100 strong, it is commanded by an Egyptian general and includes officers from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Tunisia, Egypt, and the Sudan. Meanwhile, the three-man follow-up committee, established in accordance with Sunday's "agreement" in Cairo, has met with Jordanian authorities and fedayeen representatives. The committee, chaired by Tunisian Premier Ladgham and including a government and a fedayeen member, reported yesterday that firing ceased everywhere in Jordan except for "slight incidents."

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Reports of the casualties may have been exaggerated. The US Embassy in Amman estimates that there may have been a total of 2,000 casualties, including 400 to 500 dead.

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In some areas of Amman the fedayeen are in semiofficial and almost uncontested control. Amman is taking on a more normal appearance; there is considerable civilian foot traffic, and firing has diminished to occasional intense but brief exchanges. The embassy speculates that the slowdown may have resulted from fatigue on both sides, shortages of ammunition, and the desire of both the King and the fedayeen not to weaken their case in the eyes of Arab opinion.

The cease-fire is still extremely fragile, however. Fedayeen radios continue to denounce the Cairo agreement. Yasir Arafat went on the air last night to justify its acceptance, claiming that the cease-fire will foil those who were hoping to exterminate the Palestinian people. The extremist fedayeen groups will go along with Arafat only if they believe that it is in their interest to do so, however, and they are unlikely to give up as long as they have any hope of victory. By the same token, the Jordanian Army is almost certainly eager to finish the job.

There were few reports of fighting outside of Amman yesterday. Fedayeen broadcasts have charged the army with shelling a residential area near Ajlun.

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[EGYPT: Nasir's death by heart attack leaves Egypt and the Arab world in a state of disarray.

Vice President Anwar Sadat, who under the constitution has become the provisional president, is a perennial figurehead in the Egyptian Government who owed his position more to his loyalty to Nasir than to any degree of political strength or acumen. Because there is no single political or military figure with the stature to replace Nasir, it appears that Sadat will preside for the time being with those who had been in Nasir's inner circle of advisers wielding much of the power from behind the scenes. They include Minister of State Sami Sharaf, who has been chief of presidential intelligence; Minister of National Guidance Muhammad Haykal, Minister of the Interior Sharawi Jumah, and Minister of State Amin Huwaydi.

Nasir is scheduled to be buried on Thursday, and the funeral will be attended by a vast array of political dignitaries including Soviet Premier Kosygin. The 40-day period of official mourning is liable to be one of intense maneuvering for power in Egypt, with the military playing an influential role. Cairo radio has announced that a new president will be chosen within 60 days by a two-thirds majority of the National Assembly in accordance with constitutional law.

Expressions of grief over Nasir's death came immediately from all of the Arab countries, and emotional demonstrations, possibly with anti-US overtones, may take place. His demise will leave the Middle East even more divided than in recent years. No other Arab leader will be able to command the authority and popular support that Nasir did. President Boumediene of Algeria perhaps will be able to claim some of the popular support Nasir enjoyed with the Arab masses.

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[In the wake of Nasir's death, the Soviets will be gravely worried about their long-run position in Egypt. They will play their cards in a fashion calculated to protect this stake, subordinating short-run concerns to their effort to find and back a new leadership that promises not only to value Soviet interests, but also to endure.]

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CAMBODIA: Lead elements of the government column on Route 6 have moved north from Tang Kouk village. A military spokesman reported that these units have made some progress. At the same time several battalions with the main task force are still clearing Communist elements from forest areas near the village.

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As the government concentrates on clearing Route 6, the Communists have been harassing travel along other major roadways.

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YUGOSLAVIA: A recent government decision to import freight cars ends a three-year policy of protection for domestic producers.

In the first half of October a tender will be issued for 10,000 freight cars with a probable value of \$150 million. The tender will stipulate that one third of the total will go to domestic producers.

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The decision to open bids to foreigners indicates the urgency with which the government views the problems of freight car shortages. Since 1967, when the government canceled an import contract with an Italian rail car firm, domestic producers have been protected by federal policy. For the past 18 months this included a prohibition on rail car imports. Domestic producers, who blame the banks for not providing adequate funds to finance production, have protested the change. Nevertheless, their inability to meet the urgent need for quick delivery, together with the current need to curb excessive long-term credit in the domestic market, makes foreign credits the only possible course of action.

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JAMAICA: Prime Minister Shearer's important labor support is threatened by a power struggle between the two major unions.

A three-week-old strike of Alcoa mine workers erupted into violence on 24 September. What began as a dispute over pay and worker dismissals has developed into a jurisdictional fight between the country's two major labor unions--the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union (BITU), labor arm of the prime minister's Jamaican Labor Party, and the opposition-controlled National Workers Union (NWU).

Shearer appears to be fighting hard to prevent the NWU from winning a representational poll set for 30 September to determine whether the NWU will replace the BITU as bargaining agent for the workers. Even if the BITU holds off the NWU's challenge, the government will still face problems. The government may have to meet BITU demands for large retroactive payments in order to regain support of the workers alienated by the violence.

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NICARAGUA: A potentially dangerous confrontation is in the making with the government on one side and the students and the church on the other.

On 26 September, 60 students from the Jesuit-run Central American University, accompanied by the acting rector and two other priests, seized control of the National Cathedral in Managua. They went on a hunger strike to protest the arrest and alleged mistreatment of members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), a Communist terrorist organization.

Student occupation of churches has since spread to the country's two other major cities, Leon and Granada. The archbishop, moreover, has lent his prestige to the student cause in a letter condemning persecution and torture and demanding that the prisoners be charged or released.

Government concern about the FSLN has been reflected in a series of counterinsurgency operations, the latest of which netted a number of important guerrilla leaders. The Somoza regime is unlikely to change its policy, which is designed to keep the pro-Castro organization constantly off balance.

Faced with an unprecedented alliance of leftist students and church hierarchy, the government has thus far exercised restraint and apparently is trying to extricate itself from the situation with a minimum of political embarrassment. The National Guard has studiously avoided creating incidents. Should the students resort to violence, however, strong measures culminating in the takeover of the universities may be adopted.

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TANZANIA: There is a growing possibility of a break between President Nyerere and the nominally subordinate Zanzibar Government over the issue of forced marriages.

Under the guise of breaking down social as well as racial barriers and promoting equality, the Zanzibar Revolutionary Council has forced several girls from the island's Persian minority to marry African officials and army officers. Nyerere has tried quietly but unsuccessfully to persuade island leaders, who tend to act with almost complete freedom on domestic matters, to stop the practice. In the face of their obduracy, the mainland press, with Nyerere's consent, has become increasingly critical of these forced marriages. While leaving the way open for a "private" solution, one editorial--perhaps written by Nyerere himself--posed the issue as one that might "destroy our society" unless Tanzanian leaders take a stand "unequivocably on the side of ethics and principles they claim to stand for."

If public pressure and private persuasion fail, however, to achieve cancellation of the forced marriage policy--as seems likely--it is unclear how far Nyerere will push the issue. [redacted]

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[redacted] In the past, however, he has leaned over almost backward to avoid any confrontation that would jeopardize the political union between the mainland and the island. Although he will almost certainly try to do so again, he may not be able to avoid an open conflict short of backing down altogether. [redacted]

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NOTES

ZAMBIA: The Mufulira mine, which accounts for about 25 percent of Zambia's copper production, will be largely out of operation for several months because of a recent cave-in. Roan Consolidated mine officials stated that the company, which is partially American-owned, will be unable to meet its sales commitments after 1 October. Because of Zambia's position as the world's largest exporter of copper and since the country has little ore stockpiled to offset production setbacks, the disaster could cause copper prices to rise on the London Metal Exchange where Zambian copper is traded.

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VENEZUELA: Troops effectively put down minor student violence in Merida and Maracay last week. Since the passage of the university reform law early this month, protesting students have demonstrated against it in these two cities and to a lesser extent in Caracas and Maracaibo. President Caldera has taken a strong stand on the law. Deplored the violent reaction to it, he has insisted on the government's determination to maintain law and order within the democratic framework. The government has the upper hand, and it is unlikely that leftist students will be able to prevent implementation of the law.

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